



We Educate, Advocate and Respond.

THE MISSION OF THE WINCHESTER MULTICULTURAL NETWORK IS TO:

- Promote the recognition, understanding, and appreciation of diversity
- Advocate for each and every person's civil rights
- Confront intolerance

THE NETWORK:

- Responds to incidents of bias and discrimination
- Offers multicultural training workshops
- Sponsors events that foster multicultural understanding
- Offers social events and activities for international residents
- Publishes a newsletter, *The Journey*

Phone: 781-729-7100 | email: office@wmcn.org | www.wmcn.org

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WILKOMMEN **Bienvenidos**
Dobro pzalovat Cairete **Xaipete**
Bienvenue *Wolkom* *Chao Mieng*

NEWCOMER'S GUIDE TO WINCHESTER

Byenvini *Welcome* Parykaloust
Salvete **BENVENUTO**
Karte Hai *Selemat Datang* *Witajcie*

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On behalf of the Winchester Multicultural Network's International Connections, we welcome you to our town!

For information about the Multicultural Network and the activities offered by International Connections, email office@wmcn.org, call 781-729-7100, or check out the website: www.wmcn.org and click on "International Connections."

International Connections offers conversation groups for those who want to improve their English conversation skills, and can provide a list of resources for English language classes in the area. We also plan activities and programs for international residents including our annual international pot luck supper in the fall, parents' meetings, and coffees.

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET STARTED

Emergencies

Dial 911 on your telephone to reach help in any kind of serious emergency—fire, crime, traffic accident, or medical. The Winchester Hospital is located at 41 Highland Avenue, Winchester, 781-729-9000.

Social Security

The office of Social Security Administration is located in Somerville, at 240 Elm St, and can be reached at 1-800-772-1213. If your resident status does not qualify you for a Social Security Number, (SSN), apply for a Tax Identification Number, (TIN), which is required when completing income tax returns, opening a bank account, purchasing a car, etc.

Motor Vehicles

To register a motor vehicle or acquire a valid Massachusetts driver's license, contact the Registry of Motor Vehicles. The closest office is in Melrose at 40 Washington Street. Call 617-351-4500 for information. You need to have a valid driver's license within 30 days of arriving in the state.

Public Transportation

The Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) can be reached at any time. For information on bus and train routes, schedules, and fares call 617-222-3200. The Lowell Commuter Rail stops at two local stations, Winchester Center and Wedgemere, and provides a link to North Station and the T Rapid Transit Line in downtown Boston. Two bus routes also serve the town: Route 134 (North Woburn-Wellington Station), and Route 350 (North Burlington-Alewife). For complete information visit www.mbta.com.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT WINCHESTER

Information on Town offices and officials is listed in the local *Guide and Directory for Winchester, MA*. This is a local phone book and is available at Winchester Drug located at 568 Main St, Winchester.

The local Post Office is located at 48 Waterfield Road.

The Town Hall is at 71 Mt. Vernon St.

Two local newspapers serve the community: *The Winchester Star*, which is published on Thursdays, and *The Daily Times Chronicle, Winchester Edition*, which is published daily, Monday through Friday.

The downtown area has a variety of shops, including a book store, hardware store, drug-stores, coffee shops, and other retail stores.

Trash and recyclable items must be taken to the local transfer station on Swanton Street; transfer station permits/stickers may be purchased at the Town Hall. There are also

private contractors who will pick up your trash for a fee. Look under “Rubbish Removal” in the yellow pages of the *Winchester Guide and Directory*.

A list of services and town events can be found at the town website: www.winchester.us

You can link to the school calendars from this website.

Public Schools

Winchester High School
(Grades 9–12)
80 Skillings Road, 781-721-7020

McCall Middle School (Grades 6–8)
458 Main Street, 781-721-7026

Ambrose School (Elementary School:
Kindergarten (K–Grade 5)
27 High Street, 781-721-7012

Lincoln School
(Elementary School: K–5)
161 Mystic Valley Parkway
781-721-7017

Lynch School (Elementary School: K–5)
10 Brantwood Road, 781-721-7013

Muraco School
(Elementary School: K–5)
33 Bates Road, 781-721-7030

Winson-Owen
(Elementary School: K–5)
75 Johnson Road, 781-721-7019

Snow Days

Occasionally the public schools have a 2 hour delay in opening, or must close because of bad weather (flooding or snow). You can find school closing information on TV (Channels 4, 5, 7, 25, and 56), radio (WEZE at 590 AM and WBUR at 90.9 FM), or on any of these channels’ or radio stations’ websites, as well as on www.cancellations.com.

Open House

Parents have an opportunity to meet their children’s teachers and learn about the curriculum on an evening in the early fall. This is called an “open house.” Open house dates will be listed in the school’s newsletters and on the town/school website.

MCAS

Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) are standardized tests that are administered to members of selected grades all across Massachusetts. The goal of the test is

to gauge the ability of a school to teach its students and the effectiveness of the school’s curriculum. Apart from the 10th grade MCAS, the MCAS scores will not affect your child in any way. In the 10th grade, a passing MCAS score is needed to graduate high school. Additional information on the MCAS is found at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/>.

Additional information on all the schools is located at the schools’ website: www.winchester.k12.ma.us

You can email your child’s teacher by using his/her first initial, last name @winchester.k12.ma.us (*example: mjones@winchester.k12.ma.us*).

Programs for Pre-School children are available through the Family Action Network at www.fan.winchester.org

THE WINCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

80 Washington Street
Winchester
(781-721-7171)

The public library is a wonderful resource, and it is free. The Library is welcoming to all residents and offers many services including free use of the Internet, movie loans, museum passes, book loans, wireless access, and classes to learn how to use the internet.

You will need a Library card to borrow materials. To obtain a card, go to the Front Desk of the Library and be sure to bring proof of your address (any form that verifies your residence) as well as a photo ID.

Library services can also be accessed online at www.winpublib.org.

In the reference area of the Library there is a large section of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) materials. There is also access to Rosetta Stone's English program in the Library's Quiet Study Rooms. Rosetta Stone is a computer program that uses native speakers and everyday language to develop listening comprehension skills easily and naturally. Please ask a Reference Librarian for additional information.

The Children's Department serves children from birth through age 11. The Library offers many free programs for children, and the schedule is listed on the website. You can also call the Children's Room at 781-721-7171 x3 for more information.

FAITH COMMUNITIES

The Faith Communities in Winchester are listed here. Other faith communities in Greater Boston can be found in the book *Welcome to Boston*.

Crawford Memorial United Methodist Church and Dix Street, 781-729-5056

First Baptist Church
90 Mt. Vernon Street, 781-729-2864

First Congregational Church
On the Common, 781-729-9180

First Church of Christ, Scientist
114 Church Street, 781-729-5856

Hope Christian Church
58 Mt. Vernon Street, 781-729-5494

The Parish of the Epiphany (Episcopal)
70 Church Street, 781-729-1922

St. Eulalia's Church (Catholic)
50 Ridge Street, 781-729-8220

St. Mary's Church (Catholic)
155 Washington Street, 781-729-0055

Second Congregational Church
485 Washington, 781-729-1688

Temple Shir Tikvah
34 Vine St, 781-729-1263

Winchester Unitarian Church
478 Main St., 781-729-0949

RECREATION AND ARTS

The **Winchester Recreation Department** at 263 Main Street, (www.winrec.com) offers many helpful services to the Winchester Community, including after school care for children, adult education, swimming lessons, tennis memberships to the Packard Tennis Courts, and Peer Leaders for Middle School Students.

The **Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA)** in Woburn at 137 Lexington St. offers a wide variety of activities and has indoor swimming for toddlers, children and adults.

The **Middlesex Fells** (www.fells.org) is a large community park that lies on the border between Winchester, Medford, Melrose, and Stoneham. It offers many activities throughout the year, including hikes and mountain biking. The Fells has many paths that are open to the public from dawn till dusk throughout the year. A map of the Fells can be obtained at Book Ends, 559 Main St., Winchester or other places listed on the Fells website.

Horn Pond (www.woburnmaps.com/horn-pond/index.htm) offers walking paths and fishing in the neighboring town of Woburn. This pond lies very close to the Woburn-Winchester Border and can be easily accessed from Lake St, off Main St.

The **Jenks Center** at 109 Skillings Road offers many services to the senior citizens (55 years and older) of Winchester. Call 781-729-7136 or stop in to get the schedule of weekly programs that include social events, classes, trips, and activities.

The **Winchester Community Music School** (www.winchestermusic.org) is located at 407 Highland Ave. (781-721-2950) and offers individual instruction in a wide variety of instruments, as well as voice. Call the school for a catalog or check out their website.

The **Griffin Museum of Photography** (www.griffinmuseum.org) dedicated to the art of photography, is located at 67 Shore Road (781-729-1158). The museum offers exhibitions, programs, and lectures.

LOCAL CELEBRATIONS

The **ENKA Fair**, one of the most widely attended events of the year, is organized by volunteers on the third weekend in May to raise money for charitable causes in the community.

Town Day, on the first weekend in June, features exhibits from local organizations and businesses, games, food and fireworks.

The Flea Market, usually on the last Saturday of September, is organized by the local Chamber of Commerce in the Town hall parking lot, and is basically a gigantic yard sale.

The **Holiday Tree Lighting** on the first Thursday of December celebrates the beginning of the holiday season with a visit by Santa and carol singing on the Common in Winchester Center.

SHOPPING: *Food*

Nearby Supermarkets

Super Stop & Shop
695 Main St., Winchester

Whole Foods
400 Cambridge St., Woburn

Market Basket
200 Mishawum Rd., Woburn

Roche Brothers
34 Cambridge St., Burlington

Farmers' Markets

Wilson Farms
10 Pleasant St, Lexington

Busa Farms
52 Lowell St., Lexington

Russo's Fruit & Produce
560 Pleasant St., Watertown

Roberto's Fruit
240 Mystic Ave., Medford

In early July through October you can get farm-fresh produce at several farmers' markets such as:

Arlington Center, at the corner of Mystic and Chestnut Streets, on Wednesdays from 1:00 to 6:30 pm

Lexington, at the corner of Massachusetts and Fletcher Avenues, on Tuesdays from 2:00 to 6:30 pm

Somerville, in Davis Square at Day and Herbert Streets, on Wednesday from noon to 6:00 pm, or at Union Square, on Saturdays from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Some Specialty Shops

Super 88 (Asian)
118 Commercial St., Malden
www.super88market.com

Ming's Supermarket
(Chinese)
1102 Washington St., Chinatown, Boston

Arax Market
(Middle Eastern)
585 Mt. Auburn, Watertown

Kotobukiya (Japanese)
1815 Mass Ave., Porter Square, Cambridge

Reliable Market (Asian)
45 Union Sq., Somerville

Punjab Food & Spices
454 Mass Ave., Arlington

EZ Indian Grocery Store
12 Walnut St., Woburn

New Deal Fish Market
622 Cambridge St., Cambridge

Formaggio Kitchen
244 Huron Avenue, Cambridge

B&R Artisan Bread
151 Cochituate Ave., Framingham

China Merchandise
120 Cambridge St., Burlington

SHOPPING: *Clothing*

There are also many choices when it comes to clothing. Most people buy clothing in large malls because there are many different stores in these malls, from clothing to home goods. Outlet malls are similar to these malls but are generally bigger and less expensive. Discount stores offering inexpensive new clothing are also very popular.

Second-Hand and Discount Clothing

EnKa Exchange
(Gently used adult and children clothing)
1037 Main St., Winchester

Liena (Gently used children's clothing and furniture)
45 Church St., Winchester

Marshalls
87 Main St., Stoneham

TJMaxx
286 Mishawum Rd., Woburn

Additional Information

For additional information on the Greater Boston area, the *Welcome to Boston: A Guide for International Newcomers*, provided with this packet, will answer further questions you may have about shopping in the Greater Boston Area.